

## James O'Hanlon to Andrew Jackson, December 20, 1832, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

### JAMES O'HANLON TO JACKSON.

Columbia, December 20, 1832.

*Dear Sir,* On coming to Town to day I find much excitement etc. among the *Nullies* both in and out of the Legislature. Your able and patriotic Proclamation has almost given some of them the *Cholera* , and it would not *shew well* for them to let it pass in silence. Governor Hayne has issued his *proclamation and general orders* copies of which I herewith send you. As to Prestons (a man I have long since branded as one of the worst, for his age, in the whole country) resolutions I shall not presume upon your patience to speak about these puny efforts of reckless ambition. I would write you a long letter did I deem it necessary and give you more fully what is passing here. The public prints contain enough in all conscience to shew the unhappy state of affairs amongst us, and I apprehend they will be much worse before they can get better.

The Union men are openly threatened with every kind of violence, and in this district where our number is small we are told “we must not assemble together, that it is *treason* and *Rebellion* against the sovereignty of the State”. I am put down first on the list, of those who have incurred the guilt of Carolina Treason etc. If the opposite party do half they threaten, the time is close at hand when you may expect to hear of some *lawless act of violence*. They are trying to keep themselves up by raising volunteer companies and making great shew of power. I doubt not however but that your Proclamation will have a very happy effect upon the minds of the people—those who have been deluded into the villiany of Nullification. As my health is bad, (having not entirely recovered from a severe attack of

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the fever) and I wish to return to *Fort Marion* , (the name of my residence) this evening, I have only time, to thank you for your kind attention in sending me a copy of your admirable Message, as well as the proclamation. Your letter of the 6th that came with your Message came safe to hand. I read part of it to the Union Convention confidentially when in secret session and they received it with involuntary applause. It seemed to give them more life and spirit than any thing that had been said, though many very good speeches were made to nerve and strengthen their resolves. But when they knew *who* had said that the ordinance etc. etc. was "Treason and rebellion" some cried out "*enough*" , "What have we to fear, we are right and God and Old Hickory are with us"

I understand the Legislature have appropriated 400,000 dollars (the most of which to be used at the discretion of the Governor) for the *defence* of the state's.

I must not omit to thank you for the kind assurance of a welcome to Mrs. O'Hanlon and myself, should I visit you, *when "no imputation"* could be cast upon me "for shrinking from any duty I owe my country". The *condition* will be remembered. In the mean time I remain your friend